

AMENDMENT

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Kindly amend the paragraph spanning Pages 21 through 22 (i.e., Page 21 line 26 through Page 22, line 10) to read as follows:

61 --- That portion of bag 22 to which patch 24 is adhered is "covered", i.e., protected, by patch 24; for example, patch 24 covers a portion of seamless bag side edge 32. Upper and lower end portions 36 and 38 (respectively) of bag 22, as well as side portion 40 of bag 22, are preferably not covered by patch 24, for ease in producing bottom-seal 26, side-seal 28, both of which are preferably made before a product is placed in the bag, as well as a top-seal (not illustrated) which is preferably made after a product is placed in the bag. Heat sealing through bag 22 and patch 24 requires more heat than heat sealing merely through bag 22. Unless performed properly, sealing through both bag 22 and patch 24 can result in burn through and/or a weaker seal. For a process of sealing through the patch and bag together, see USSN 60/042664, now abandoned, in the name of DePoorter et al, entitled "PATCH BAG HAVING SEAL THROUGH PATCHES," filed April 4, 1997, the entirety of which is hereby incorporated by reference thereto. As can be seen in Figure 2, taken together, patch 24 covers over 50 percent of the distance around bag 22 (i.e., the "transverse circumference" of bag 22).---

A marked-up copy of the amendments to this paragraph of the specification is provided in the Appendix included herewith.